

## REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 14-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is requested based on the following remarks.

### Objections to the Declaration:

The Declaration was objected to for various informalities. A copy of the Declaration filed October 31, 2003, showing the Applicant's residence, citizenship, and mailing address, accompanies this response. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,409,453 to Brodine et al. (hereinafter "Brodine"). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 5 recites:

A pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket.

Brodine neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as recited in claim 5. In Brodine, rather, the wafer is supported by shelf 150 at the free end and by shelf 154 at the fixed end, as shown in Fig. 5. The wafer is supported above main part 152, so it never touches it. In particular, as described at column 7, lines 66 and 67, continuing at column 8, lines 1, 2, and 3:

FIG. 5 shows a cross section of a finger 76. A shelf 150 near the free end support the wafer and provides clearance for the bottom side of a wafer above the level of the main part 152 of the end effector 64. Another shelf 154 supports the wafer near the fixed end.

Since, in Brodine, the wafer is supported by shelf 150 at the free end and by shelf 154 at the fixed end, Brodine has no "pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as recited in claim 5.

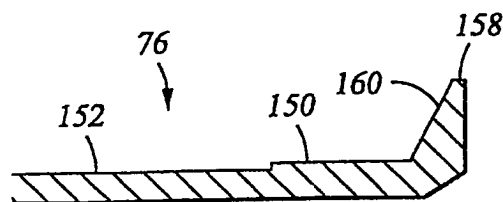
Furthermore, the only wafer realignment performed in Brodine is performed by high-profile end shoe 158 at the very end of finger 76, not by a pocket. High-profile end shoe 158 is not a pocket. In particular, as described at column 8, lines 5-12:

The alternative finger 76 has a similar shelf 150 for supporting the wafer above the main part 152, but the alternative finger 76 has a high-profile end shoe 158 for laterally containing the wafer. The high-profile end shoe 158 permits the angled surface 160 to provide some slight wafer realignment if the wafer is

radially offset up to about 3.7 mm, but the high profile limits the clearance of the end effector 64 in narrow spaces.

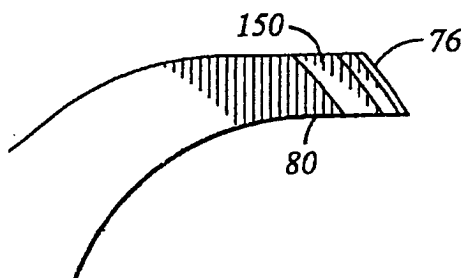
Since, in Brodine, the only wafer realignment is performed by high-profile end shoe 158 at the very end of finger 76, not by a pocket, Brodine has no "pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as recited in claim 5.

Further, as may be seen clearly in the detail of the very end of finger 76 shown in Fig. 6 and reproduced below, high-profile end shoe 158 is a high-profile end shoe, not a pocket.



Since, in Brodine, high-profile end shoe 158 is a high-profile end shoe, not a pocket, Brodine has no "pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as recited in claim 5.

In fact, as may be seen clearly in the detail of finger 76 shown in Fig. 4 and reproduced below, finger 76 is too long and thin to even *have* a pocket.



Claim 5 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 6, 7, 12, and 13 depend from claim 5 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 6, 7, 12, and 13 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 12, and 13 is also earnestly solicited.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:**

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodine in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,227 to Kobayashi et al. (hereinafter "Kobayashi"). The rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 5 and add further distinguishing elements. Brodine neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 5. Kobayashi does not either, and thus cannot make up for the deficiencies of Brodine with respect to claims 8 and 9. Thus, even if Brodine were combined with Kobayashi, as proposed in the Office Action, the claimed invention would not result. Claims 8 and 9 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 is also earnestly solicited.

Claim 10:

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodine. The rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim 10 depends from claim 5 and adds further distinguishing elements. Brodine neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 5. Thus, even if Brodine were modified as proposed in the Office Action, the claimed invention would not result. Claim 10 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is also earnestly solicited.

Claim 11:

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodine in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0070316 to Weed et al. (hereinafter "Weed"). The rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim 11 depends from claim 5 and adds further distinguishing elements. Brodine neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a pocket to receive a wafer and self-correct a positioning error of the wafer in the pocket," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 5. Weed does not either, and thus cannot make up for the deficiencies of Brodine with respect to claims 8 and 9. Thus, even if Brodine were combined with Weed, as proposed in the Office Action, the claimed invention would not result. Claim 11 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 is also earnestly solicited.

**Conclusion:**

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 5-13 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 5-13 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 04/11/08

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